

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) Apparatus for processing photographic material comprising a base member for locating the material to be processed, the base member being provided with a channel at either side thereof for holding the processing solution, and spreading means for transferring the solution from one side channel to the other, thereby spreading the solution across the material.
  
2. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the side channels are shallow.
  
3. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein the depth of the channels is between 1 mm and 50 mm.
  
4. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim 1, 2 or 3~~ wherein the side channels are provided with one or more rib members on the wall remote from the base member.
  
5. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ wherein the channels are curved.
  
6. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the curve on the side remote to the base member has a steeper slope than that on the side closest to the base member.
  
7. (original) Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein a roller spreads the solution across the material.
  
8. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ wherein a pad spreads the solution across the material.

9. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 any  
~~of claims 1 to 6~~ wherein an air knife spreads the solution across the material.

10. (original) Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim  
wherein the base member is made of a heat conductive material.

11. (original) Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim  
wherein the base has a recess in which the material is located, the recess having a  
depth slightly greater than the thickness of the material.

12. (original) A method of processing photographic material  
comprising the steps of locating the material on the base member, supplying  
solution to at least one of the side channels and transferring the solution from one  
channel to the other across the material, thereby causing the solution to be spread  
and agitated uniformly over the material.

13. (original) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the  
processing solution is metered into the channels.

14. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 12 ~~or~~  
~~+3~~ wherein a two part solution has a first part supplied to one channel and a  
second part supplied to the other channel, the solution being mixed by action of  
the spreading means as it passes over the material.

15. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 12, ~~+3~~  
~~or 14~~ wherein the solution and the material are heated by heating the base  
member, the base member being pre-heated.

16. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 12 any  
~~of claims 12 to 15~~ wherein the solution is spread across the material by means of a  
roller.

17. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 12 any  
~~of claims 12 to 15~~ wherein the solution is spread across the material by means of a pad.

18. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 12 any  
~~of claims 12 to 15~~ wherein the solution is spread across the material by means of an air knife.

19. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 12 any  
~~of claims 12 to 18~~ wherein every stage of the entire process cycle is performed with the material located in the base member by sequentially adding and removing processing solutions for a given stage followed by the adding and removing the processing solutions for the next stage and so on to complete the entire process cycle.

20. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 12 any  
~~of claims 12 to 19~~ wherein the process is customized to suit any particular material.

21. (original) A photographic processing system comprising a first processor according to claim 1 arranged to receive photographic material and perform a first processing stage on the material and at least one additional processor according to claim 1 arranged to receive photographic material from the first processor, the at least one additional processor being arranged to perform one or more subsequent processing stages on the material.